



Cambodia

Volume 7

Number 2

HE IS ABLE TO DELIVER

BY MURIEL ELLISON

A shriek of pain from Sari brought the pupils and teacher quickly to his side and his bleeding index finger showed that a cobra had buried its poisonous fang deeply in the tender flesh. The teacher showed presence of mind in applying a tourniquet to the child's arm, then he sent him home accompanied by a number of the older pupils. He was relieved when they came back later to report that Sari was still living, but he was puzzled.

"What medicine-man did his father call in to treat Sari?" he questioned.

"They didn't call in anyone to blow or spit on him. They are Christians."

"Oh, then they gave him shots of French medicine to counteract the poison?"

"No, they didn't give him shots either," the boys shook their heads emphatically.

"They must have given him something. These cobras are deadly. You know very well that anyone

bitten by one becomes unconscious and soon dies. What did Sari's parents do?"

"Well, we saw them rub his arm with Singapore oil and lime juice. They had him soak his finger in hot water too. They kept saying over again, 'Oh Father, Heavenly Father, please help!' But we were right there and didn't see anyone come to help them. These Jesus people are queer. They don't seek the devil or evil spirits like we do."

The boys went back to their studies and the teacher, still puzzled, returned to the classroom. All were very alert, however, when Mr. Pim, the father of Sari and the leader of the church at Kontreang near Siemreap, appeared at the door and asked the teacher for permission to dig out the snake. All wanted to go with him to watch.

It wasn't hard to find the right place, for Sari had told him that he had reached down to pick up some money that lay at the top of a hole. The money was still there intact so Mr. Pim removed it gingerly with the point of his hoe. A student claimed that he had lost four riels from his pocket. Mr. Pim handed it to him and began to dig about the hole. At the depth of more than a foot the hole widened out into a circular den and those watching drew back hurriedly when they saw the angry cobra. With a few skillful thrusts of his hoe Mr. Pim killed it and drew it out into the open. The teacher and those who gathered

to watch were more surprised than ever, for there before them lay the most poisonous of the cobra family. The father took this excellent opportunity to tell of the power of the living God who hears and answers the prayers of His children.

Sari's finger and hand were swollen for several days but the swelling soon subsided and the wound was clean and dry when the missionaries saw it ten days later. They met the teacher too and enjoyed the lilt of happy confidence in the father's voice as he told again of the boy's deliverance from death.

MISSIONARY DIRECTORY

Rev. & Mrs. H. M. Taylor, Chairman

Miss Lavinia McCart, Secretary

Mr. & Mrs. C. M. Westergren, Publication

Rev. & Mrs. W. H. Holton, Chinese Work

Rev. & Mrs. M. E. Graven, Takhmau Bible School

72 PRAH BAT NORODOM, PHNOM PENH

Rev. & Mrs. B. D. Dunning

MISSION EVANGELIQUE, KAMPOT

Rev. & Mrs. D. W. Ellison

MISSION EVANGELIQUE, KOMPONG CHAM

Rev. & Mrs. D. R. Furniss

MISSION EVANGELIQUE, TAKEO

ON FURLOUGH

Rev. & Mrs. L. E. Braley

Rev. & Mrs. F. C. Peterson

Rev. & Mrs. C. E. Thompson

Rev. & Mrs. J. E. Doty

Rev. & Mrs. H. K. Sechrist

Rev. & Mrs. M. B. Steiner

Rev. & Mrs. A. L. Hammond

Rev. & Mrs. J. P. Ellison

IN EVERYTHING

BY PRAYER

WITH THANKSGIVING

✔ Your prayers are being answered daily as the Lord is meeting hearts and lives during this youth conference which is in session as this issue goes to press.

✔ Join with us in prayer for Dararith, the Phnom Penh youth president, who is being severely tested in body.

✔ Needed! Young Cambodian men to be ministers of the gospel to their own people and to the tribes in Cambodia. Several have heard the call of God but because of extreme pressures from unsaved parents, are as yet unwilling to answer the call.

✔ Did you know that a National Women's Prayer Group has been organized in Cambodia? Pray for Mrs. Nai, the newly elected national president, and for the local groups now organized: Mrs. Kong, Phnom Penh area; Mrs. Hom, Kampot; and Mrs. Nai, Kompong Cham. The women are enthusiastic. Please pray for them in their new endeavor—the all important ministry of prayer.

LIVING WORDS

BY MARLENE WESTERGREN

Our press is more than cold steel and the smell of printer's ink. It is the story of living words which eventually find their way into the hearts of Cambodian men, women and children. This fact has been recently impressed deeply upon my whole being.

I remember Kru Yea's stirring message on how we got our Bible. He explained how the Word has come to us through much hardship and even bloodshed. The impact of this, plus his thankfulness that he has it in his own language, brought tears to his eyes as he exhorted the Christians. I remember a pastor who frequently visited the missionary's home, seeking for truths he did not understand and seeking answers to questions the world continually asked him, because he had no where else to turn. I remember another pastor from an outstation who came to our home the minute he heard part of a theology book was off the press. Yes, The Word prepared in various

forms becomes the the preacher's tool and not just another book.

I remember my first Impressions at the Phnom Penh Church as I opened my new leatherbound hymnal and tried to pick out a few words I had already learned. I was stirred by the familiar music even though the words were strange. But now that I can join with them in singing, these printed words have become alive with true meaning. This experience helps me visualize a dorkened, Buddhist's heart which breaks forth with understanding by the same living words which give assurance of hope, love and everlasting life. Praise the Lord for living music available to all in printed form!

I remember the first time we went alone to a village to tell them of Christ. Oh how faint our hearts, how dumb our lips but what assurance as we reached for the Word in their language and began to read. What a joy, too, to leave behind a permanent witness—a tract for all who reached out eager hands, or a Gospel or booklet for those who could buy them. The hours of work spent printing was forgotten in the joy of giving out living water, to this dying people.

I remember watching the Christians as they read each new edition of the Bible Magazine. With the old of pictures, good layout, interesting material,

good paper, and color, the Christians have been attracted and drawn to the living message inside. Youth, especially, search it from cover to cover for a source of new ideas and new inspiration. As I watched, I knew the Bible Magazine was meeting a definite need.

I remember the faces of young students, their first time at Youth Conference. As they took the prepared lesson sheet or the book to study about the simple doctrines of the Bible, I realized they could never have learned these truths so quickly if they had to dig them out of the Bible themselves—a strange book to many of them. But by the working of the Holy Spirit, these cold words in books are transformed into living meaning in their hearts.

I still remember the words of a young man seeking for the truth, when after seeing the Bible in English and Cambodian and hearing it's message, said, "This is the book I should be studying." Yes, it is a joy to prepare and to give out the living word in various forms to the unsaved, to new believers, and to earnest, seeking Christians. Though the number of books printed and the number of pages printed, swells statistics and keeps us busy, the whole purpose is only fulfilled when it meets the needs of hungry hearts.

ANNA AND MIRIAM

BY FLORENCE HOLTON

In 1952 I heard Helen Hayes campaigning for Mr. Eisenhower. She said, "I have no outline nor notes, a subject like mine can come only from the heart."

That is how we feel about Miss Lau and Miss Hah. In this world of changing convictions it is refreshing to work with those who "dare to have a purpose true."

They have never swerved from that original purpose to preach the Gospel which came to them more than twelve years ago. They were both well trained nurses but gladly left their profession to study at the Wuchow Bible School. They were graduated from this school, after it had relocated in Hongkong.

The Phnom Penh Chinese are quick to admit that they are fortunate to have had nearly eight years of unbroken service from these two talented and attractive ladies. Anna is nearing fifty and Miriam is in her late thirties. Both are strong and active, spiritually and physically.

If we try to express in one word a description of their work it would be "efficiency." But not the cold,

life-less, machine-like type. Their work is done orderly, is kept well oiled with the Holy Spirit, and comes from hearts filled with love and devotion.

They visit in rotation all church members and inquirers. We go with them on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I have seen them bent over their Bibles showing the place to country women with the same zeal that they show in the most refined of Chinese homes.

They have given up home and family for the sake of the Gospel but God has given them scores of spiritual children. Their Sunday School is unusual in its perseverance and progress under most discouraging conditions. Their Sunday School and Junior Young Peoples' Choirs delight all who hear as they sing "to time" and in several parts.

These two Bible Women have been tested in soul, body and spirit and have come forth in victory. For all that God has accomplished through them, and for the ladies themselves, we humbly thank God.

Cambodia

is published bi-monthly by

**The Cambodia Mission of The Christian & Missionary Alliance
to solicit prayer support and to inspire missionary interest.**

We will gladly send copies free to anyone upon request.

Mr. C. M. Westergren, Editor

Mrs. B. D. Dunning, Assistant Editor

CAMBODIAN CULTURE IN REVIEW

The Cambodian loves music—his own kind of music. His music has no particular notes to follow and no exact words to remember. We might call it "spontaneously improvised." It can be heard everywhere, among the simple and more cultured, the young and old. It is probably the most common artistic ability of the nation. It may be expressed by song or by instrument.

Cambodian singing closely resembles the chant in that there is little modulation. The subject of their song is everyday life with emphasis on love and happiness. The words nasal and falsetto define the tone quality. Western singing has no resemblance.

Complementary to his song, the Cambodian has many native musical instruments. All of these are hand made and some highly ornamented. A full orchestra would consist of three xylophones, made with either wooden or metal bars; a Kong, a large wooden horseshoe on which about twenty brass gongs are suspended; several violins; several wind

instruments similar to a flute; and a series of different size drums.

At all important celebrations and religious festivals an orchestra is hired. These musicians are "professionals." They do not use a score, but follow the lead of one instrument. The music they produce has little harmony and the melody and rhythm are simple, but they have the unique ability to continue playing for extended periods of time. Often you can retire at night and rise the next morning with the same monotonous, penetrating "music," your uninvited guest. Amateur village orchestras are very prevalent also; and consist of merely a few drums, some violins and a flute.

It is difficult to distinguish between the various types of Cambodian music, nevertheless, there are differences. Religious music, dance music, and patriotic music are specific types. Another type is just plain "home spun."

Music adds flavor to the whole of Cambodian life. But lacking the object of worship which impelled Handel to write the moving strains of "The Messiah," it never reaches the level of inspiration. Instead, it clearly reveals the innermost spiritual condition of the Cambodian heart — dull and unconcerned. May these same voices and instruments soon lift "unto the Lord a new song."